

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Christians nearing extinction in Iraq

BAGHDAD (BP and local reports) — Rahim (not his real name) took one bullet in the leg, then one in the head, while sitting in a church pew.

His death and the deaths of 50 other Christians gunned down with him on Oct. 31 marked more than just the ends of their lives. The slain believers also symbolize the impending demise of the entire Christian population of Iraq, said one Baptist worker familiar with the situation.

"This is not the start. It's the period to a long-running sentence, the end of a tragic novel that's been playing out for years," said Nik Ripken (not his real name), who has served 25 years with the International Mission Board and is an expert on the persecuted church in Muslim contexts.

The Islamic State of Iraq, an al-Qaida group, took credit for the massacre at Our Lady of Salvation, a Syrian Catholic church in Baghdad, plus the spate of bombings and killings that followed. The group claimed the violence was in response to the alleged detention of two women in Egypt said to have converted to Islam.

Major news outlets showed the world the bloodbath, the most fatal single incident of violence since Islamic extremists began targeting Christians, according to Compass Direct News in a Nov. 3 Baptist Press article.

That one highly publicized tragedy doesn't account for the hundreds of thousands of Christians who have been lost to Iraq one way or another in the past seven years, Ripken said. More than half of the nation's Christians have fled Iraq since 2003, according to Compass Direct News. Just shy of 600,000 Christians remain.

Most who flee go first to Syria or Jordan then try to find permanent residence as refugees in Europe, Canada, the United States, or Australia, according to Bassam Madany, whose ministry, Middle East Resources, offers perspectives on Islam from a Christian viewpoint.

"This is probably one of the biggest flights in recent history, and the world has stood silently by as it's been happening,"



ON EDGE — Iraqi Christians may bleed into the streets and flow of life in the country, but in their churches they have continued to be targets of extremists. The persecution has resulted in many Iraqi Christians facing the decision of whether to flee their homeland with their families or stay and likely face severe consequences. (BP photo)

Ripken said, noting that the losses might be even bigger than those claimed by news sources. "It's been a hemorrhage since the second Gulf War. When Saddam Hussein thanked the Christians on public television for supporting him, even though they were simply being peaceable under his rule, he basically gave them a death sentence. He put a big political target on their backs."

He noted there was no al-Qaida presence in the nation while Hussein was in power.

The persecution of Christians in Iraq since Saddam's removal has reportedly ranged from crucifixions to rape. The Islamic State of Iraq "seeks the establishment of harsh Islamic law and says all Iraqi Christians are targets for jihad," as USA Today put it.

As a result, many Iraqi Christians are facing the decision of whether to flee with their families or stay and likely face severe persecution. Church leaders in Iraq and worldwide are voicing concerns this may nail the coffin shut on a Christian presence in the nation.

"They will definitely leave," Faiz Bashir, curate of St. George's, an Anglican church near Our Lady of Salvation, told USA Today. "We hope it's not the end of Christians in Iraq, but if things get worse, if there are attacks on the churches and killing on the streets, this will be certain."

Christians are soft targets in Iraq, and the world has failed to advocate for them, Ripken said.

The U.S. State Department did not name Iraq as a severe violator of religious liberty when it released its annual International Religious Freedom report Nov. 17. The decision came despite an April recommendation by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to add it as a "country of particular concern."

"They [Iraqi Christians] talk about their persecution as expected, as normal," Ripken said. "What they talk about with brokenness is being rejected and forgotten by other people. The international Christian community has been silent. Iraq needs the prayers of Christians, for peace to come there so that Iraqi Christians can stay and those who have left can return home."

A nation increasingly devoid of a Christian witness will also need intense prayer, Ripken added. "Iraqis' access to the Gospel is at stake," he pointed out.

Persecution has already stifled sharing between Christians and their neighbors, he said.

Is 'defamation of religions' movement slipping?

WASHINGTON (BP) — Religious freedom advocates welcomed the continued decline in international support for the concept of "defamation of religions" as evidenced in a recent vote in the United Nations.

The United Nations' Third Committee approved a defamation of religions resolution by 76-64 with 42 abstentions, but the document's passage came by a margin less than half of that from the previous year. In 2009, the Third Committee — also known as the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee — endorsed a similar resolution by 81-55 with 42 abstentions.

The U.N. General Assembly will vote on the non-binding resolution in December. Opponents believe the resolution, and the concept on which it is based,

would harm global religious freedom and provide support for anti-blasphemy laws like those in some Muslim states.

The proposal calls for the condemnation of messages that vilify religions and can lead to violence. It appears to provide protection primarily for Islam, some critics say.

The U.N. Human Rights Council — or its predecessor, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights — has approved a defamation of religions resolution every year since 1999. In March, the Human Rights Council voted 20-17 in favor of such a resolution, with eight abstentions. The U.N. General Assembly first approved such a resolution in 2005, but the proposal has lost support with every vote since 2006, when it passed by 57 votes.

Last December, the General Assembly voted 80-61 for the resolution, with 42 abstentions. It is not unusual for the General Assembly to pass the same, or a similar, non-binding resolution year after year.

Morocco sponsored this year's resolution on behalf of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, which has been the primary force behind the proposal since its inception.

This year's resolution urges countries to protect "against acts of hatred, discrimination, intimidation and coercion resulting from vilification of religions, and incitement to religious hatred in general." It also expresses concern about cases of intolerance, discrimination, intimidation, coercion, or violence,

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Thai broadcaster sends ministry message

THAILAND (BP) — The sound of children laughing fades while the din of car horns and sirens rises through car speakers and transistor radios across northern Thailand. A person sneezes, another child giggles, and then Bahndit Darwin begins to speak.

The opening audio of Darwin's hour-long radio show, "Thoughts for Life," patches together the sounds of small, everyday experiences. Even though he might play Thai country music on his show, the program's purpose lies in something deeper. Darwin uses his airtime on three regional stations to impart the spiritual wisdom he learned in his rags-to-radio life to help listeners in their day-to-day lives.

He hopes the advice, derived from biblical truth, will point audience members to Christ.

"My vision is to use mass media to get the mindset of Christians out to the masses who don't believe Christ, to help them understand who God is better and to give them an opportunity to know the Lord," Darwin says. "I feel like mass media is a door that allows the church to have access to the masses."

Recorded in a bare-bones studio in Darwin's home, Thoughts for Life doesn't evangelize but, instead, lays the foundation for the spread of the Gospel. It doesn't present the salvation message or sandwich invitations to accept Christ in between secular love songs.

Darwin knows northern Thais won't listen. Instead, he offers advice from a Christian viewpoint and ends his broadcasts with a phone number to call for more information, connecting listeners to local churches or to Darwin himself.

International Mission Board

worker Mark Patenaude, who serves as Darwin's ministry partner, says he feels God is preparing the Thai people through the program, even though it has yet to see a lot of conversions.

"It seems like God is doing something now in Thailand that we haven't seen and that our predecessors haven't seen," Patenaude says. "There's just a lot of cooperation among the churches. There's a thrust for evangelism and church planting like never before."

To participate in this spiritual movement, Darwin pulls his radio material from a life of hard work and fervent Bible study that began in northern Thailand along the Laos border. Raised under very unusual circumstances — in a Christian family living in a predominantly Buddhist country — he learned of God and His Son early in life and devoted himself to Christ around age 15.

Darwin gave up school after the ninth grade because his family could not afford it. He spent his days bent over hillsides, planting corn. There, surrounded by crops instead of books, he grew thirsty for knowledge — spiritual knowledge.

"In those two years, God really did change my heart to want to know God more and to study more," Darwin says, "so when those two years were done, I was studying the Bible by myself."

Darwin quit farming in order to attend a three-month-long intensive Bible study seminar. God used this to pluck Darwin out of the cornfields permanently and plant him in a home recording studio.

Through relationships he built in the seminar and in the general Christian community, he found ways to attend seminary in Bangkok, enter a pro-



SENDING MESSAGE — Bahndit Darwin records his "Thoughts for Life" radio show from a studio built in a small room in his home. He then sends the recordings to three radio stations for broadcast across northern Thailand. (BP photo)

gram that allowed him to finish high school, become a husband and father, earn a master's degree in communications, and become the director of the Northern Thai Ministry Project.

For all of this, he thanks God. Now he tries to catch the eyes — or, more accurately, ears — of non-Christians. Having been raised among Buddhists, he knows how they think. He tries to see their needs and give advice on how to deal with money, marriage, and children.

"In order for us to have influence with non-Christians, we have to start where they are — problems in everyday life," Darwin says.

A year into this electronic ministry, a few accepted Darwin's message and became believers while many others became dedicated listeners. One Thai waitress in the city of Phrae says she exclusively worships Buddha, but she also car-

ries her radio from room to room in her house, careful not to miss a syllable of Darwin's Thoughts for Life. If the radio station accidentally replays an old episode, she knows and calls in to report it.

"I like the advice that he gives," Phrae says of Darwin. "He gives me advice on how to live a life that is good... I've seen that what he talks about helps me to live a life that brings me peace."

Although his audience has been slow to receive the message of Jesus, Darwin continues to paint a picture of God for the lost with each broadcast while he and Patenaude work diligently to create publicity for the show and to get their message into more homes.

Editor's note: Find out more about Thailand and Southeast Asian people groups at www.seasianpeoples.org.



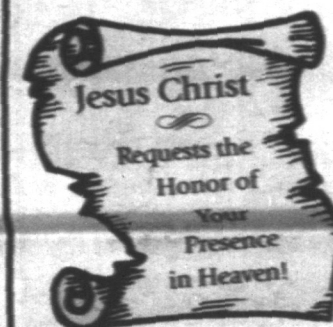
MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

'Ark Encounter' to complement Creation Museum

FRANKFORT, Ky. (BP) — The same group behind the Creation Museum is partnering with another group to build a full-scale version of Noah's Ark that will anchor a family-oriented Bible-theme attraction costing an estimated \$150 million.

The "Ark Encounter" is scheduled to be completed in spring 2014 and will be built in northern Kentucky at a site to be determined, according to a news release. The Creation Museum, which by comparison cost \$27 million, also is located in northern Kentucky in Petersburg, near Cincinnati.

"The Ark Encounter also will include live animal shows, an aviary, a replica of the Tower of Babel with exhibits, a children's interactive play area, a 500-seat 5-D special effects theater, a lookalike first-century Middle Eastern village, and a walled city much like was found in ancient times," the release said.

Answers in Genesis, the Christian ministry that built the Creation Museum, is partnering with Ark Encounter LLC to build the Ark complex. It will be privately funded and will employ up to 900 people either full or part time.

"We are very pleased to be a part of this new project," Ken Ham, president and founder of Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum, said in a statement. "AiG has been blessed to see the Creation Museum host over one million guests in three years."

"Based on our experience and success operating the large, state-of-the-art Creation Museum, our board believes the time is right to partner with the Ark Encounter in building a full-scale Noah's Ark. We hope that this fun and educational complex called the Ark Encounter will become another popular tourist destination for the state."

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear also applauded the effort. "We are excited to join with the Ark Encounter group as it seeks to provide this unique, family-friendly tourist attraction to the Commonwealth," Beshear said in a statement.

Opened in 2007, the 70,000-square-foot Creation Museum gives a scientific explanation for an orthodox interpretation of the Genesis creation.

Editor's note: For more information, visit ArkEncounter.com.

Looking back

10 years ago

Ashland Church, Ashland, builds a house for 81-year-old Rodney Manning, using volunteer labor. He had been sleeping under a piece of plastic sheeting in his previous home because water poured in through the roof.

20 years ago

The Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board hosts a national satellite broadcast of the program, The MVP Spirit, on the American Christian Television System (ACTS). The program spotlights athletes who have made Jesus the "MVP" in their lives.

50 years ago

The Mississippi College Music Department, Jack Lyall, director, is promoted to full membership by the National Association of Schools of Music. This accreditation makes music degrees from Mississippi College acceptable at any college or university.



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The Battle for Christmas, part two

Loyal readers of The Baptist Record will recall last week's commentary in this spot entitled, The Battle Over Christmas, regarding the American Atheists organization's billboard at the busy New Jersey entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel that comes out in New York City. The billboard depicts the Nativity with the Three Wise Men following the Star and reads, "You KNOW it's a Myth. This Season, Celebrate Reason."

"We get blamed for a war on Christmas every year. This time we're actually going to pay attention to that. We're actually going to earn a little bit of that," said American Atheist president, David Silverman, in an interview with the CBS television network affiliate (Channel 2) in New York City.

"A lot of people in church, a lot of people in the mosque, a lot of people in the synagogue know they're praying to air... We're getting a lot of response from closeted atheists saying, 'Thank you for putting it up,'" Silverman went on to say in the interview.

groups like American Atheists believe they have to spoil an event in which they don't even believe? Why doesn't somebody do something?

Well, someone has.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights now has a billboard of their own on the New York side of the Lincoln Tunnel. It's a picture of Joseph and Mary with Jesus in the manger looking up at text that reads, "You Know It's Real: This Season Celebrate Jesus."

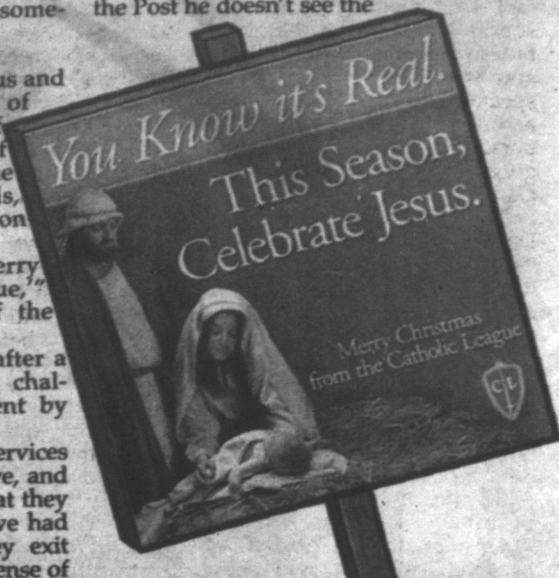
"Our billboard also says, 'Merry Christmas from the Catholic League,'" said Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League.

"We decided to counterpunch after a donor came forward seeking to challenge the anti-Christmas statement by American Atheists."

"Our approach is positive, and services the common good. Theirs is negative, and is designed to sow division. It's what they do. So after Christian motorists have had their sensibilities assaulted as they exit New Jersey, they will experience a sense of joy, and satisfaction, as they enter New York City. It's what we do."

"We agree, Jesus is the reason for the season," said Antonique Smith, who was driving into Manhattan with her sister Yolanda, in an inter-

view with the New York Post. Michael Gerber, a Catholic from Hoboken, N.J., told the Post he doesn't see the



need to try to outdo the atheists. "It doesn't need to be plastered on a billboard," Gerber told the Post. "I should be able to celebrate in my own way. And if it's tit for tat, it defeats the spirit of Christmas."

Donohue said in an interview with the Post that the billboard will be in place for about a month at a cost of \$18,500, paid by an anonymous donor who was upset about the atheist message in New Jersey. "He called me and said, 'I want you to do something about it,'" Donohue said in the Post interview.

"I have nothing against atheists," said Donohue, known for his combative defense of the faith when asked to appear on radio and television. "I have something against militant, in-your-face atheists that use our season to make their statements."

Amen!



The atheists' action left more than a few Christians perturbed. After all, it's our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, isn't it? Why do other

Most of us are very familiar with the words of Paul in chapter 10 of Romans, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:13-15a ESV).

Paul is concerned that every person in every people group might hear the Gospel. He shared John's vision. "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." (Revelation 7:9, ESV).

Scripture clearly tells us that someone is to be sent to every tribe and nation and language and people in order that they might hear the Gospel and have opportunity to call on Jesus, to believe, and to be saved.

The most fundamental element of the missionary task is to take the Gospel to those who have not yet had the opportunity to hear and believe.

A few years ago we thought the Gospel might be accessible

GUEST OPINION:

We're not there yet!

By Clyde Meador
Richmond, Va.



to every people group by 2010. However, as we approach the end of 2010, we are still far from that goal. More than 6,400 people groups still have no access to the beautiful truth of Jesus Christ. They languish in their sin without the knowledge that there is forgiveness, that there is hope, that there is a God who loves them.

They await the words of salvation yet have no idea what they are waiting for.

The Bible is not available in their language. In most cases there is no church to be found in the places where most members of that people group live. In other cases there may be a church, but not a church where their language is spoken or their cul-

ture understood. There are no Christian radio or television broadcasts in their language.

The Gospel simply is not accessible to them. No one has preached the Gospel to them.

The goal of every people group having the Gospel available is not our goal — it is God's goal. "The Lord is... patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9 ESV).

We are not there yet!

It is God's desire that every people should have the Gospel. His Word promises that there will be believers from among every people group. It is our responsibility as His followers to obediently be about the task of fulfilling that desire and see-

ing that promise accomplished. To be satisfied with anything less is unthinkable.

Our focus must not be on the multitudes of people who have come to the Lord in recent years, or on the thousands of new churches started, or even on the hundreds of people groups who have received the Gospel for the first time. Rather, like Paul, we must forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.

Our focus must be on the task that remains — the untold millions of people in thousands of people groups to whom we have yet to take the words of life. They now live a hopeless life, lost in their sin, on their way to an eternity in hell.

They are desperately waiting for the truth that gives an opportunity to believe and to experience abundant life here and for eternity.

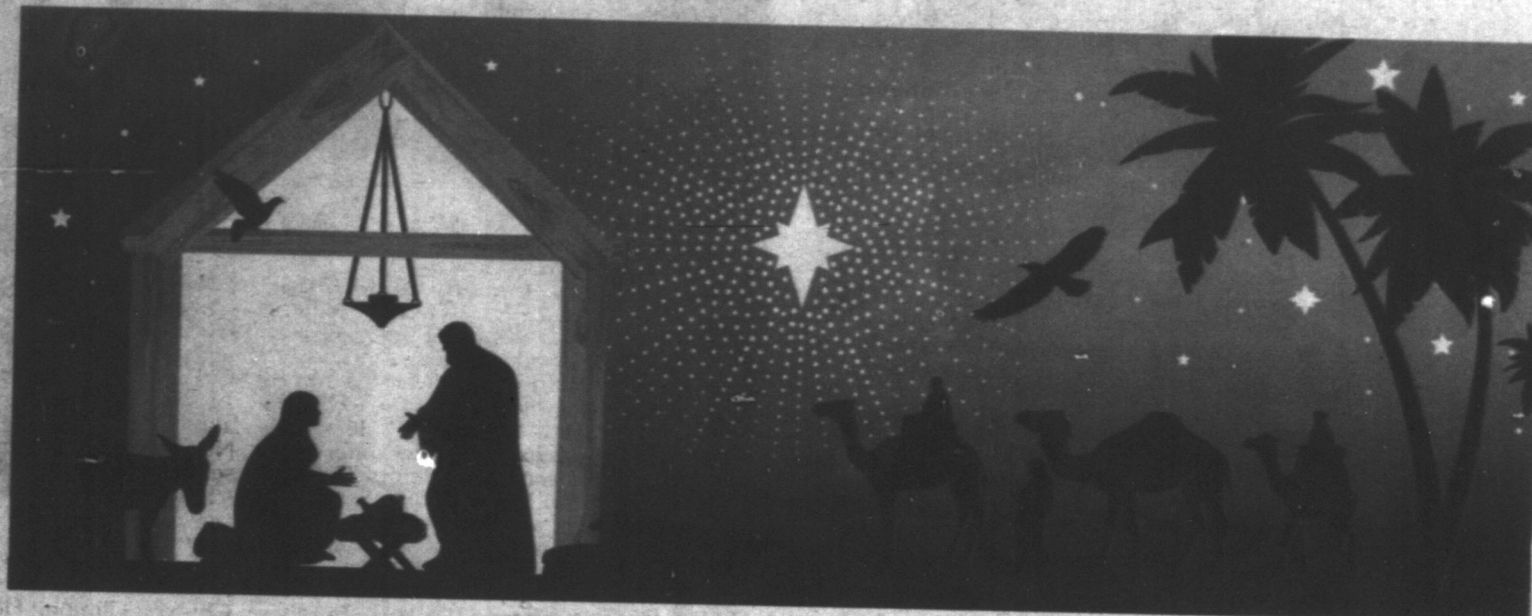
We are not there yet. We must press forward, in His strength, that all may know.

Meador is interim president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Richmond, Va. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Winter 2010



Go, tell it on the mountain... Jesus Christ is born!

About this time last year, I gathered with about twenty members of a Jr. High Sunday School class for an evening of Christmas caroling. Most, if not all, of these young people have been involved in church their entire lives. As the students piled onto a flatbed trailer, they were equipped with sufficient energy and enthusiasm to embrace this ministry project.

At the first house I attempted to lead the group to sing age-old Christmas songs such as "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come", "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," and "Go, Tell it on the Mountain." Surprisingly, most of the young carolers struggled with the words to these Christmas classics. Someone suggested that we sing "Frosty the Snowman" and "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Others agreed wholeheartedly and the majority of our caroling was spent singing these two songs along with "Jingle Bells" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

That caroling experience reminded me of the need to reevaluate personal priorities and the influence that my life is having on others both in the present and for all of eternity. I hear afresh the words of Jesus "As you go...make disciples...baptize them...teach them...." Please receive this edition of Foundation News as a reminder of the real "reason for the season." Prayerfully, the following articles will provide insight and inspiration for many Mississippi Baptists to explore available avenues for touching a single life, a whole community, and the entire world with the good news of Jesus Christ.



Daniel Hall
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

BIBLIOCIPHER

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Clue: T = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Micah Seven: Two.

MS POSITIONS

POSITION FOR ORGANIST AT Grace Baptist Church in Columbus, MS, is available. This staff member will accompany worship services and special services on the organ. Please email resume to: whitneyite1@cableone.net.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IN Columbus, MS, a traditional Bible-studying, hymnal-using church, seeks a bi-vocational Minister of Music. This staff member will lead worship services on Sunday and Wednesday, direct the adult choir, direct the children's choir, and select music for worship services. Please email resume to: whitneyite1@cableone.net.

SYLVA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Yalobush County, Ms. is seeking a full time Pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman, 17846 Hwy 32, Water Valley, Ms. 38965.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OCEAN Spring, MS is seeking to fill the full-time position of Student and Adult Discipleship Minister. Send resumes or inquiries to: fbcos@fbcos.org or mail to First Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Committee, 602 Washington Ave. Ocean Springs, MS 39564. The Church phone number is call 228-875-4532.

LOOXAHOMA BAPTIST CHURCH in Senatobia, MS is currently seeking a part-time youth minister. Send resume to 808 Lyles Rd. Senatobia, MS 38668 or leave message 662-562-8447.

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE of First Baptist Coldwater is seeking a part-time Worship Leader. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 347, Coldwater, MS 38618 or fbcoldwater@bellsouth.net.

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AND THE WISE MEN BROUGHT GIFTS

If you didn't see the story that came out of a Christmas event in recent years, you need to hear it. It is amazing how children hear and grasp the Christmas story, but sometimes confuse the words. The story was being told of the Wise Men coming to see Jesus and they brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. One little girl was listening carefully but was hearing a little bit differently. She heard about the men who came to see Jesus traveling so many miles, but rather than hearing the presentation of the three biblical gifts, what she heard was they brought gold, common sense, and fur.

Gold we all understand. Through thousands of years, gold has been precious. Both children and adults understand that. You do not lose sight of that and here these wise travelers brought gold, a valuable substance, to Jesus. Some people never learn that the gift of quality things — valuable things to the Lord and even to each other — brings blessings to the giver as well as to the recipient. I wonder if possibly, the best-known verse in the Bible is the verse from the heart of God and from the hand of God being His most treasured possession: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). How amazing and how wonderful that was. Certainly, that treasure from heaven has blessed every one of us who has come to know Him as our Lord and our Redeemer. Think about the joy and the blessing that has come to the Heavenly Father from giving to us. His family has grown and those in



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

the family have continued to grow because of His wonderful, amazing gift of Jesus.

The second gift the little girl heard was that of common sense. Of course, in the biblical narration it is frankincense. I suppose that since she did not know what frankincense was, common sense made more sense. Well, they were Wise Men and they did bring common sense to honestly seek the Lord and fervently follow Him. Sense does not get better than that, whether it is "frank" or "common." As one wise person noted, common sense is not common.

Frankincense, of course, was a sweet smelling incense, and it seems to me that common sense is a blessing that also brings joy to the heart of God. The Scripture says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10). Those who would leave Him out certainly miss out on true wisdom. James tells us in his little book, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). God will provide spiritual insight to life's perplexing problems.

The final gift picked up by the ears of the little girl was not myrrh but fur. Even with the teacher's explanation, it is doubtful that a little child would understand what myrrh was all about, for it was often used as a kind of embalming spice — but fur a

child would understand. Thinking in terms of a little child, a baby would need some warm covering like fur. Maybe she was thinking how fur would be softer and more comfortable for a little baby to sleep on rather than the hay in the manger. I am not sure what might have been going

through her mind, but I can understand how a little child might interpret or at least reinterpret the Christmas story.

There may be some of us who are older, though not necessarily wiser, who would benefit from thinking about the Christmas story and those Wise Men who brought gifts of gold, common sense, and fur. This Christmas, as you think of all the wondrous gifts God has provided in His Son Jesus, why not think like a child as you give and receive gifts. Maybe God will allow you to see with child-like eyes and enjoy with a child-like heart! Merry Christmas!

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

OBITUARIES

1. James Daniel "Danny" Wells, 59, a resident of Lake Village, Ark., and formerly of McComb, died Sept. 10 in Lake Village as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was the son of James Hugh and Thelma Idell May Wells. He was a graduate of McComb High School, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He was serving as minister of music and education at Lake Village Church, Lake Village, and had served as a minister in many churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. He was preceded in death by his mother. Survivors include his wife, Cathy DeCoux Wells; his father, James Hugh Wells, McComb; two sons and daughters-in-law, James David and Sonia Wells, Clinton; Nathan and Christy Wells, Fort Carson, Colo.; three brothers, Ronny Wells of Yazoo City, Tommy Wells of McComb, and Jay Wells of Long Beach; and two grandsons, Cayden and Grayson Wells, Clinton.

2. Ferrell O. Cork, Jr., 80, died Sept. 13 at the North Mississippi Medical Center after a brief illness. A McLaurin native, Cork was born Apr. 16, 1930 to Ferrell O. and Margaret Anderson Cork, Sr., and was raised in Akron, Ohio. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor of Bogue Chitto Church, First Church, Gordo, Ala.; Brooks Memorial Church, Atmore, Ala.; First Church, Union; First Church, Aberdeen; and VanWinkle Church, Clinton. He was a U.S. Army veteran and was a Golden Gloves boxing champion. He was a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo. Services were Sept. 17 at Calvary Church. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Billie T. Cork, Tupelo; one daughter, Lynn High (Henry), Tupelo; one son, Steven E. Cork (Cheryl), Mooreville; one brother, James Cork, Akron, Ohio; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Lullu Harrold, and one grandchild.

STAFF CHANGES

- 1. Phalti Church, Clarke County Association,** has called Keith Bogan as pastor. Bogan also serves Riverside Church, Clarke Association, as pastor.
- 2. First Church, McLaurin,** has called Felix Greer as pastor. He and his wife are recently retired International Mission Board missionaries after serving 31 years in West Africa in theological education.

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POSITION:

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director

SEEKING: To fill the position of Executive Director to provide visionary leadership to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Executive Director will give direction to the KBC Mission Board ministries and staff, promote the ministries of the KBC and Cooperative Program, conduct all fiduciary responsibilities of the office, and build working relationships with Kentucky Baptists and all partners. A minimum of a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited institution or equivalent is required. Please submit resumes no later than January 3, 2011 by email to kbcsearch@gmail.com or by mail to KBC Executive Director Search Committee; P.O. Box 460, Elizabethtown, KY 42702-0460.

Connie Stone Memorial: That Others May Go

Connie Stone was born and raised in Leake County, MS. As was common in the days of her youth, the more rural communities had Sunday services only one or two Sundays each month. Therefore, Connie and her family attended the local Methodist church and the Baptist church on alternating Sundays. However, when given the opportunity to attend a "full-time" church, Connie readily chose the Baptist church as she was a devoted Southern Baptist all of her life. When the Stones moved to Kosciusko in 1972, Connie and Wayne transferred their membership to First Baptist Church on the first Sunday in their new hometown. Thereafter, they attended church every time the church gathered, whether on Sunday morning and evening or Wednesday night.

Connie's devotion to her Lord and love for His church was not limited solely to her attendance. Rather, she and her husband Wayne could be characterized as "good workers" in many aspects of church

life and ministry. For many years, Connie led the two-year-old Sunday School class. As they grew older, Connie and Wayne remained very active in the Senior Adult ministry of FBC.

Connie believed in praying for and caring for the ministerial team that God had assembled. She loved and appreciated



CONNIE CELEBRATING MRS. J.B. LEWIS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

her pastor Barry Corbett, Associate Pastor Mark Parnell, and all of the worship leaders and musicians at First Baptist. In addition, Connie and Wayne were avid supporters of missions both prayerfully and finan-



CONNIE STONE WITH MARK PARNELL

cially. Connie was active in WMU at First Baptist Church and was encouraged by the quality statewide leadership of Kay Cassibry (who Connie referred to as "vivacious") and the WMU leadership team.

Though a growing and continuing struggle with cancer began to limit her attendance at church, Connie remained faithful in praying for and giving to missions and ministry through her church. When the Lord called Connie into "higher service" with him in August of 2009, her daughter Kathy established the "Connie Stone Memorial Missions Trust" through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The goal of this fund is to provide financial assistance for members of First Baptist Church of Kosciusko as they promote the cause of Christ through participation in national and international mission trips. While reflecting on the values and priorities that that she learned from her parents, Kathy offered, "I think my mom would be pleased with the Memorial Fund and its purpose."

Vicky Dowdy: A Heart for Missions

Vicky Dowdy had a heart for missions and she took seriously Christ's command to have personal involvement in the spread of the gospel around the world. Not only did Vicky participate in multiple mission trips to Mexico, but she also traveled to Oklahoma, Kansas, and Maryland. The trip to Maryland was a mission experience shared through the Warren County Baptist Association. In addition, Vicky joined with fellow Baptists from the Yazoo County Baptist Association to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to engage in clean-up efforts related to Hurricane Katrina.

Vicky supported her husband, Dr. Billy Dowdy, in the various ministry and mission opportunities to which the Lord led him. Often, Vicky's encouragement and support came in the midst of physical challenges and uncertainties associated with cancer. A pastor since 1979, and the Associational Missions Director from 2000-2010 with

the Warren and Yazoo County Baptist Associations, Billy has either led or participated in mission experiences both within and outside the United States. Stateside trips include Mississippi, Massachusetts, Maryland, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Washington. Mission trips outside the U.S.A. include Mexico, Canada, Honduras, Belize, Brazil, England, Thailand and various other Asian countries.

One particular region and area of ministry to which God has led the Dowdy family is Eastern India. As part of the mission emphasis in Eastern India through the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Billy helped lead the Yazoo County Baptist Association to adopt a church in Imphal, India. The association provided funds to build a church facility and a home for the pas-

- Continued on next page

David and Brenda Young: Striving to Please God

Copiah County residents David and Brenda Young desire to have a Kingdom-sized impact in "all the world." As David elaborated on this goal, he stated, "I've always seen others do things and I wanted to be involved also. Thus, my prayer became 'Lord, how can you use me? Lord, please show me what I can do and be for you.'" David continued by saying, "When I pray that prayer, I seemingly become more in tune with opportunities to be used of the Lord. Sometimes, months may pass, but when a unique opportunity surfaces, I am reminded of the specific prayer that I prayed and I begin to understand how the Lord is providing an answer to my prayer."

David related a story of an experience through which God honored an act of obedient stewardship. During a program that was broadcast on a Christian radio station, a generous donor offered an automobile to a particular Christian organization. That testimony inspired David and Brenda to make a similar gesture to assist with mission efforts to Mexico. After giving his truck for this purpose, David asked the recipient of the gift to drop him off at the rental car establishment. The missionary asked incredulously, "Do you not have transportation? Why did you give your truck away?" David said, "I have enough money to rent a car for three days. After three days, we'll see how the Lord is going to handle the situation."

With the end of the third day approaching, God revealed His



DAVID AND BRENDA YOUNG

plan. David asked a friend if he had a truck for sale. Interestingly enough, this friend "happened" to be in David's path at that particular time. Surprised by the inquiry, the friend indicated that he did have a truck that he was planning to sell although he was curious how David would know about the truck since no advertisement had been posted. The arrangement was made that David would advertise the truck for sale while commuting in the vehicle to Jackson everyday for work. David could only marvel at God's faithfulness in providing for his needs.

From this experience, and others, David and Brenda desire to be "on mission" continually through service to others. When the Youngs sold some timber a few months ago, they contacted the Mississippi Baptist Foundation to inquire about establishing a mission endowment. In particular, David and Brenda wanted to honor a young couple from Crystal Springs, David and Regina White, who serve as missionaries to Guatemala through the International Mission Board. With the help of Foundation staff, this desire became a reality with the establishment of the "J. David and Brenda T. Young Mission Trust." Earnings from this fund are distributed by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation to the International Mission Board with preference being given to missionary support in Guatemala.

The prayer of David and Brenda remains "God, we'll be on the look-out. We don't know how in the world you can use us, but we'll be on the look-out. Then, whatever we can do that pleases you, we will do."



DAVID, REGINA, AND CRUZ WHITE

Alabama group calls for delay in GCR implementation

GARDENDALE, Ala. (BP) — The Alabama Baptist Conference of Directors of Associational Missions has issued an open letter calling for a slowdown in funding changes related to the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force report, in an effort to protect funding for work in pioneer areas as well as ministries traditionally organized for rural America.

That report recommended phasing out the cooperative agreements that govern state convention and local association relationships with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and has many state conventions and local associations reassessing their vision, strategy and financial plans.

The Alabama DOM group wants to make sure they understand the results of "pulling the plug" on some ministries.

The open letter was overwhelmingly approved during the group's annual meeting Nov. 15 at First Church in Gardendale, Ala. "We want to address the areas that are going to be left out of the Great Commission Resurgence paradigm," said Steve Loggins, president of the conference and director of missions for North Jefferson Association.

Selma Association DOM Tom Stacey brought the idea to the group's attention. "He is very concerned about work in the

pioneer areas of the country," Loggins said. "He has been connected to new work areas since serving as a summer missionary in Wyoming almost 30 years ago."

Stacey said work in pioneer areas is real, "not just observatory" for him. "My dear friends and background are invested in this," Stacey said, noting that the Selma Baptist Association has had an unofficial partnership in a new work area for 13 years.

After the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report passed at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., in June, "I decided I wanted to do something," Stacey said.

Stacey "knows the devastation GCR will have and has shared with us things we needed to hear," Loggins noted, "but we kept our letter focused on the way GCR is going to affect missions in North America because of the changes GCR is going to make to NAMB."

"We hope it will make people stop and think about some areas they didn't think about," Loggins said. "There is a way to do what GCR [advocates] want to do without abandoning the Cooperative Program. We all want to see the Gospel go to the ends of the earth, but we can't abandon what we have here. It doesn't have to be an either/or, but a both/and."

"Some people want to abandon everything for just the uttermost, but I don't see that we have to choose," Loggins said. "We've got to do it all."

While the letter is an expression of support for the Cooperative Program, Loggins said associational directors of missions also are committed to keeping existing ministries in place.

"We are not going to let those ministries being abandoned by NAMB fall through the cracks," Loggins said, noting that the director of the International Ministries Center in Mobile is one of the positions for which long-term funding is unsure.

NAMB vice president for communications Mike Ebert said the position is guaranteed through the end of 2011.

"We are in a very active, ongoing process with state executive directors about how states and NAMB can most effectively partner to reach North America for Christ," Ebert said.

"It's a collaborative process and it's going well. This is the top priority issue for our president, Kevin Ezell, right now, but just two months into his presidency, it's too early to have answers for everyone."

Still, the DOMs want Southern Baptists to hear what they have to say, but Loggins said they didn't want to be confrontational in their efforts, so they decided an open letter was the best way to share their mes-

sage. "We hope all Southern Baptists will have an opportunity to see our heart," Loggins said. "We would like folks looking at giving through the GCR viewpoint to consider what we are presenting here, something beyond that paradigm."

Stacey added: "What I pray happens is that we as Southern Baptists can come together at the table and ... can work out a unified plan that we can all still be on board with. 'We're praying [NAMB President] Kevin Ezell will start understanding more and that these entities and agencies will do some studies before they pull the plug on whatever they are going to pull the plug on,' Stacey said. "We are backed into a corner and we are trying to be as gentlemanly as we can."

Both Stacey and Loggins agreed that Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, has worked to communicate this message with a cooperative spirit, but they realized he can't do it by himself. "Rick Lance has been an eloquent spokesman for Alabama Baptists and has said so much about this to us and beyond about the fears of what will happen when GCR comes to pass," Loggins said, "and since GCR has been passed, he has done his best to partner with this paradigm. But it is time for someone to step up, come alongside him and say it as well."

Struggle to share Gospel a constant challenge for missionary couple

MASERU, Lesotho (BP) — As the woman lies dying, a spiritual struggle begins. The woman's body has wasted away. Her organs are shutting down. Sweat beads on her emaciated face. She smells like death.

Southern Baptist missionary Babs Dial leans over the woman and whispers to her about the love of Jesus Christ. The woman's mother, a witch doctor, interrupts. "She does not want to hear that," her mother intones.

Dial persists and asks the woman if she understands what Jesus did for her. The woman nods. Does she want Jesus to be her Savior?

"No, she is dying," the witch doctor insists. "She wants to hear happy things." The woman's eyes flutter. She nods once more.

"The way people measure value in this world, she has absolutely none," said Alan Dial, Babs' husband. "The combined wealth of her entire family would not pay for a bag of groceries, but she's passing into eternity. Does it matter? Yeah, it matters."

The Dials know just how much. For six years, they labored in the tiny African country of Lesotho to bring salvation to a people for whom time is running out.

The Dials went to Lesotho in 2004 from Tallahassee, Fla., to work among the mountain Basotho people, who languish in the grip of death. They are desperately poor, often lacking basic food and clothing. Nearly a quarter have HIV/AIDS, by official estimates, but the Dials think it may be closer to 60%. They have been in villages where everyone has the virus.

The Basotho also are poisoned by the stinging, oily smoke from the fires they build inside their huts. "Almost all of them have some degree of tuberculosis or

other chronic pulmonary disease," Alan said. "Their eyes are always red and watering, and they all cough."

Hungry and sick, their bodies ravaged by AIDS, the Basotho perish in droves, most before the age of 45. Fewer than two percent know Jesus as Savior, Alan said, and their people group is becoming extinct.

"We cannot get to them fast enough to give them the Good News about Jesus before they die," Alan said.

That knowledge fuels the Dials' urgency. By foot, horseback, or truck, by themselves or with volunteer teams, the couple has trekked to countless villages with the message of the Gospel.

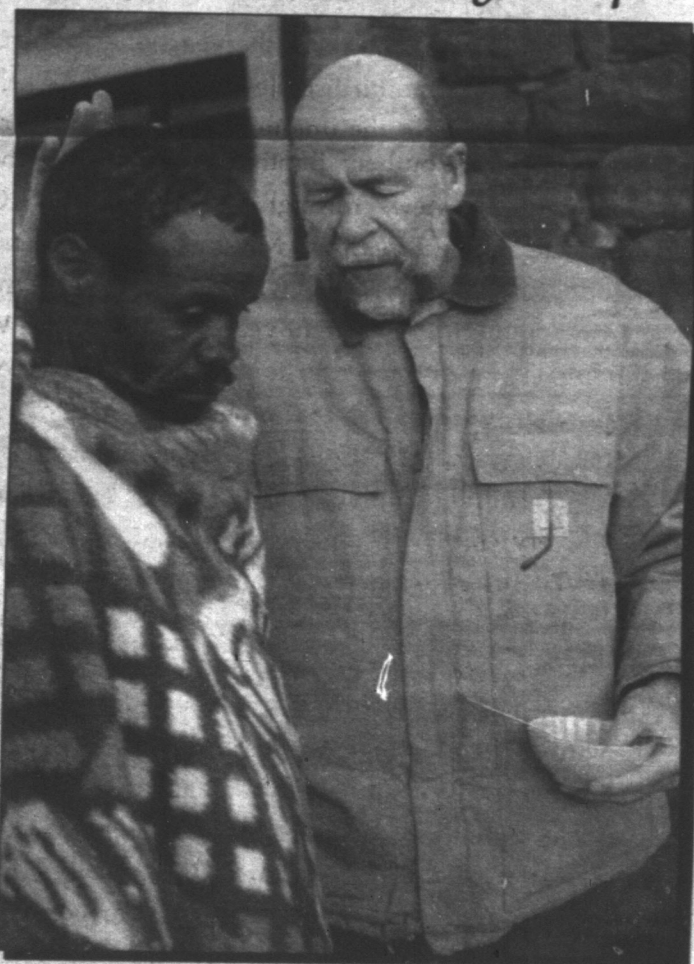
At each village, the Dials ask the chief's permission to share with the people. Almost all the chiefs are eager for their people to hear about Jesus Christ. One chief who wasn't a Christian welcomed them anyway.

"He said, 'Christians don't beat their wives, steal their neighbors' animals, or get drunk,' so he wanted [his people] all to be Christians," Alan said.

"We heard him tell his people they needed to change, that the way they were living was not working," Babs added.

The Dials spoke to the villagers about AIDS and orphans, trying to change the destructive way of life that fills so many Basotho graves. They told Bible stories during town meetings, showed the "JESUS" film and went home-to-home, talking about Jesus.

"Somebody has to go tell the story before they die," Dial said.



BRINGING HOPE — Alan Dial (right) prays for a sick Basotho man in Lesotho. For six years, Dial and his wife Babs have labored to bring physical help and the hope of Christ to the Basotho, who are perishing from HIV/AIDS at an alarming rate. Medical problems will likely prevent the Dials from returning to that mission field after their current stateside assignment ends. (BP photo)

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Vicky Dowdy — Continued

tor. In addition to this experience, Billy has been privileged to teach Bible courses to other pastors.

Through this relationship with the adopted church and pastors in India, God impressed on the Dowdy family the need to provide training for pastors in the Maniphur Baptist Convention. Vicky's own experience as a life-long educator helped foster the family's interest in making biblical and theological instruction available to these Indian pastors.

On August 28, 2010, Vicky's earthly sojourn came to an end as she began living in the mansion promised to her and prepared for her by Jesus, her Savior. Her legacy of education and missions, however, continues through the "Martha Victoria Smathers Dowdy Memorial Scholarship" that has been established through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by her husband Billy, pastor of FBC Leakesville, MS, and their two daughters, Rebekah Fleming of New Orleans, LA and Kathryn Latch of Ocean Springs,

MS. The earnings from this endowment will offer a continual means of financial support for training pastors from the state of Maniphur in Eastern India.



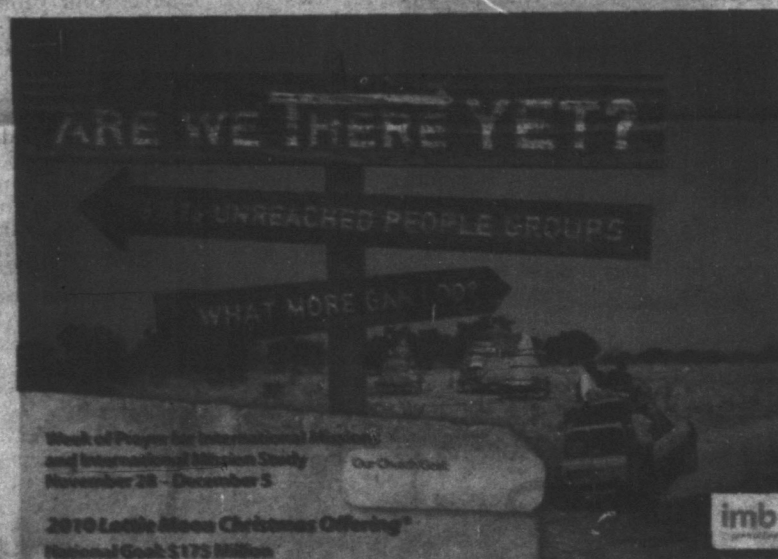
BECKY & OWEN FLEMING, VICKY & BILLY DOWDY, AND JACOB & KATIE LATCH

LMCO: Are We There Yet?

During this time of the year when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Southern Baptists highlight the unique opportunity to partner with thousands of Southern Baptist missionaries in the sharing of this good news through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The collective giving goal for all churches within the Southern Baptist Convention for the current year is \$175 million. While this figure is a large amount to be sure, the cooperative efforts of churches, individuals, and other organizations can ensure that the attainment of this goal becomes a reality.

I'm reminded of the challenge issued by a friend of mine to every church where he has served as pastor. He challenged his congregation to give an amount to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions that equaled or exceeded the amount that was spent on the most expensive Christmas gift purchased that year. In other words, "seek first the Kingdom of God" rather than turn inward with an emphasis on self and personal wants.

Through the generosity and foresight of hundreds of stewards across our state, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has the privilege of partnering with the International Mission Board as "laborers together with God" by distributing thousands of dollars each year for mission support. The amount distributed by the Foundation during the most recent year approached \$200,000 with a large portion of these monies being designated for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.



In the midst of the "Black Friday" and "Cyber Monday" kind of shopping events that garner much media attention and many consumer dollars during the weeks leading to Christmas, please remember the baby in the manger. Read and reflect on Luke 2:1-20, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20, and Romans 10:9-15. Perhaps spend a few moments singing "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night, Holy Night" with your family and friends. Be open to the possibility that God would have you establish a legacy of mission giving and going in a manner similar to the Youngs, the Stones, and the Dowdys. And, as you go, remember that the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is available to help you "tell it on the mountain and everywhere that Jesus Christ is born."

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Go and Do

Luke 10:25-37

By Becky Brown

In 1933, Donald McCrossan wrote: "On the Jericho Road, there's room for just two, no more or no less, just Jesus and you." From personal experience on the Jerusalem/Jericho road, I can sing along with Donald. Long, winding, narrow and desolate, this road is filled with treacherous hills and turns which provide safe havens and quick escapes for thieves and other mean-spirited folks. Jerusalem rests majestically at 2700 feet above sea level. Jericho descends to 1000 feet below sea level. My ears battled the swiftly changing altitude as we navigated those seventeen miles "going down" from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thank goodness Dad was driving.

In Luke 10, we see Jesus, the One who knows best and loves most, as He responds to a cer-

tain teacher of the law who should have known better than to question The Law Giver. I love it when Jesus answers questions with a "let's go deeper" question. This teacher knew the law by heart but not by life, love and practice. He knew that he was to love the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength and to love his neighbor as he loved himself. He got an "A" in Bible Drill. He purposed to trap Jesus while attempting to justify his own failure to follow the very law he quoted from memory. "Who is my neighbor?" he asked Jesus. He was full of the Word but fresh out of compassion. So, Jesus told him a story. The names were omitted to protect the innocent...and to point out the guilty.

A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. A certain band of



Brown

thieves fell upon him, stripped him, beat him and disappeared around the nearest bend in the road, leaving him for dead. A certain priest came down the road and stumbled on the injured man. He saw that the man needed help but kept on going. A certain travelling light Levite also discovered the injured man. He, too, saw the man needed help but kept on going. A certain man from Samaria was also journeying on that road. The Samaritan saw the injured man and immediately felt compassion for him. He came to him. He used his own journey provisions of oil and wine to treat his wounds. He must have torn his own clothing to make bandages. He lifted him up and placed him on his own donkey and brought him to an inn where he spent the night caring for him. I believe he delayed his journey by one caring day. He must have been a man of trusted reputation.

He paid the innkeeper in advance for possible medical complications, promising to take care of any further expenses on a return trip.

Jesus looked that teacher in the eye and asked him to identify the neighborly character in the story. "The one who showed mercy," he responded. He could not bring himself to speak the word "Samaritan" for Jews despised them. The certain man fell among certain thieves and was ignored by two certain religious leaders and helped by a certain hated Samaritan.

Some believe the injured man was a Jew based on the location of the story and the reaction of the testy teacher. Jesus does not reveal his nationality. Our injured man represents

Anybody. I believe that we certain readers should certainly get the point that our names fit one of two points of action. Either we talk our mercy while living it out or we don't. All three travelers SAW the need. Two of them picked up speed and bolted.

One traveler stopped and met the need. Which traveler are you? Which desperate person or what apparent need has God placed in the middle of your narrow road? Will you step around and leave or will you step up and meet the need? Jesus told that teacher to hit the highway and to show mercy.

Matthew 9:35-36 says that Jesus felt the same compassion for the multitudes that the Samaritan displayed. Compassion means "to be moved deeply in the inward parts." David was a man after God's own heart. The Samaritan was a man after God's own guts. In Genesis 4, that murderer Cain complained to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Hebrew word for "keeper" is "Shamar" a building block for the word "Samaria" which means to guard, protect, narrowly observe and tend to. Good Shamar-itsans, come on down the Jericho Road!

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE
Why Prayer Deserves Priority

1 Kings 8:22-24,27-28,38-39,43

By Dr. W. Wayne VanHorn

The word "prayer" is much like the word "exercise," when people hear it they think, "I don't have time." Like exercise, everyone acknowledges the benefits of prayer, but finding time to pray in a crowded schedule is difficult. In fact, we won't find time to pray unless we consider prayer's importance. This week's lesson encourages us to consider prayer's importance, making prayer a priority. Our lesson focuses upon Solomon's dedicatory prayer for the recently built temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:22-53).

Before we examine Solomon's prayer, we note some important preliminary realities. First, Solomon built the temple because his father David envisioned a glorious house for the Lord in Jerusalem, the capital of his

kingdom (2 Samuel 7). Second, Solomon brought the ark of the Lord into the temple with great pomp and circumstance. This ark often was called "the ark of the covenant of the Lord" (1 Kings 8:1,6). According to 1 Kings 8:9, the sole content of the ark was the two stone tablets Moses put there at Horeb (Mt. Sinai), where the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel. We should not miss the symbolism. The temple would be a visible symbol of God's presence on earth, a place where people were invited to come to God in covenant relationship. This relationship was based on faith and obedience. Third, once the ark was placed in the temple, "the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord" (1 Kings 8:11,RSV). Prayer has efficacy because of the Lord's presence!



Van Horn

Initially Solomon stood near the altar with his hands stretched toward heaven (1 Kings 8:22). Later, during his prayer, he knelt down, still lifting his hands upwardly, a posture of humility and expectancy (1 Kings 8:54). Solomon reflected on God's past dealings with his people, especially David (1 Kings 8:22-26). He acknowledged the inadequacy of the temple to contain God (1 Kings 8:27). He asked God to hear the prayers of His servants and to forgive them (1 Kings 8:28-30).

The remainder of Solomon's prayer was a direct petition for God to see and to hear from heaven and to answer, to forgive, and to restore His people when they prayed to Him in various situations. In 1 Kings 8:31-32, Solomon asked God to establish justice in the case where a man defrauded his neighbor. Solomon also asked God to restore the covenant people should they be defeated in battle because they sinned against the

Lord (1 Kings 8:33-34). Other specific examples in Solomon's prayer included drought (8:35-36), famine and pestilence (8:37-40), success in battle (8:44-45), and forgiveness and restoration from exile (8:46-53). I particularly want you to note the passage I skipped over in this list of petitions, 1 Kings 8:41-43, where Solomon asked God to answer the prayers of foreigners who were not members of the covenant community. Solomon wanted "all the peoples of the earth" to know the Lord's name and to fear Him (8:43).

So why is prayer important enough for us to make it a priority? First, through prayer we acknowledge the on-going plan of God to redeem lost humankind. Second, like Solomon, we can reflect on the Lord's faithfulness to past generations as an assurance He will be faithful to us. Third, Solomon suggested various scenarios in which people might petition God for help, for forgiveness, or for restoration. He was not being exhaustive so much as he was providing a sampling of times people

would pray. The basic idea is that we should come to the Lord in all circumstances.

As I write this lesson preview, Mississippi College is in the midst of a 30 day prayer emphasis. I am using Michael Pritchard's booklet entitled, "Broken," as a guide for each day's prayers. This booklet was distributed to administrators, faculty, and students as a way of having our campus family praying together for broken spirits and contrite hearts before God. As our president, Dr. Lee Royce, wrote in the preface, "This prayer guide is designed to help you grow as a Christian. Day by day you can experience more of the life God desires for you as you study His word, meditate upon its meaning, pray, and take action to become a better follower of Christ." Mississippi Baptists are in the process of recruiting over 10,000 prayer warriors to pray everyday for revival in our state. Will you join us in making prayer a priority?

Van Horn is Dean of Christian Studies and the Arts at Mississippi College.

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News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

OCTOBER 1998

MEMORIALS

Jeff Davis & Ida Mae Riley
J. Jefferson Riley
John & Katherine Riley
J. Jefferson Riley
Rosie Roach
Mrs. Margie B. Maynard
Mr. Aaron Robinson
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
Mr. John F. Rollins
Amite River DAR Chapter
Ann Rucker
Bob & Peggy Palmer
Doris Rushing
James & Mary Alta Clark
Mrs. Tena Haskins
Mr. Hulon Russell
Hazel Daniels, Dan, Harold & Denise
Mrs. Beula Russell
Terry & Pat Guest
Mr. Dudley D. Sandifer, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Slay
Wallace & Carol Clay
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Shaw
Ms. Susan Yates
Mrs. Clara Lillian Shible
Mrs. Mary D. Hartford
Mrs. Macy Shore
Arlington Heights BC,
Pascagoula

Mrs. Ruby Jean Chaney
Pearl Slaven
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Sisk
Ben A. Smith
Reece & Martha Douglas
Louise Smith
Johnny & Christal Walls
Mrs. Leslie Smith
Gary & Gail Mitchell
Rhonda Smith
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Hattie Sneed
Joel & Shirley Hale
Mrs. Nancy Sonnier
Jay and Darlene Gore
Mr. Richard Herbert Spain
Phil & Lee Embry
Mr. Harry A. Speaker II
Arthur & Alicia Burnett
Peggy Stringer
Jennings & Betty Sue Dixon
Lester & Bette Herrington
Ruth Stubbs
Collier & Family
Lee Ann & Family
Norma & Tricia Tillman
Lula Mae Sykes
Dorothy & Ann Moore
Barbara Jean Tutor Tartt
Frances & Rich
Defenbaugh
Judge James Thomas
Dr. & Mrs. Tommy King

Stephen Alan Tillotson
Randy & Melinda Rich
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald J.
Hasselmann
Verdie Trice
Bessie Burkes
Byron & Cathy Kyle
Mrs. Nue Wimblish Turnipseed
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D. Jayroe
Andrea Tynes
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley &
Jordan
Paul W. Upton
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Bonnie Jean VanDevender
Bob & Peggy Palmer
Mr. Peter Vincent
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents
Jr.
Mrs. Rachel Walker
Mrs. Virginia R. Blackwell
Ruby Walls
Byron & Cathy Kyle
Velma Ward
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Mr. Dewitt Warner
Jo & Jimmie Smithy
Ms. Bonnie Watson
Geneva & Randy Earls
Edouida Smith
Mrs. Louise Wilkerson
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Emma Wilks
Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Speights
Jr.
Katie Williams
Billy & Jerry Russell
Rosemary Williams
Billy & Jerry Russell
Ruby Williams
Mrs. Edwina M. Wise

NOVEMBER, 2010

HONORS

Grandparents of Ingomar BC
Ingomar Baptist Church
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Mrs. Mary Ann Graves
Montgomery Cousins
Ms. Martha M. Putnam
Paul Jackson & Sons
Construction
Harperville Baptist Church
Pilgrim's Rest Chainsaw Crew
Ms. Margie Johnson
Ben Armstrong
Jim & Billie Marie Rushing
Jack Armstrong
Jim & Billie Marie Rushing
Trent Armstrong
Jim & Billie Marie Rushing
Lee Barron
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Jo Blackwell
Winsome SSC, Petal-
Harvey BC
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Holloway
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Mrs. Joyce Jeffcoat
Mildred & George Collins
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Jan & Jerry Davis
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Mrs. Thomas B. Austin

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Mrs. Barbara B. Easterling
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MS
Mr. Robert Hudgins
Jerusalem BC, Kosciusko,
MS
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Joe & Jackie Lee
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Shannon Lee
Ms. Janice M. Thames
Jeremy & Teresa McDaniel
Ms. Janice M. Thames
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Glen & Ida Fay Oglesby
Mr. & Mrs. Lenox Oglesby
Glen & Ida Fay Oglesby
Woodie Oglesby
Glen & Ida Fay Oglesby
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Katey & Andy Witt
Lee Presley
Glen & Ida Fay Oglesby
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Kaitlyn Rimes
Ms. Judy Foreman
Lauren Rimes
Ms. Judy Foreman
Mrs. Frances Smith
Ardell & Mary Frances
Frazier
Cameron Smyly
Jim & Billie Marie Rushing
Carson Smyly
Jim & Billie Marie Rushing
Lexie Smyly
Jim & Billie Marie Rushing
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Jessica Teston
Ms. Janice M. Thames
Robert Bradford Van Cleave
Mrs. Mary E. Van Cleave
Mrs. Anne Walker
Friendship SSC, FBC,
Rolling Fork

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J. C. & Celeste Rhymes
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Mrs. Annis Goss
Mother of Mrs. Gary Anderson
Mrs. Annis Goss
Mother of Mrs. Grady Palmer
Mrs. Annis Goss
Mrs. Addie Adair
Ms. Nelda M. Pickle
Mrs. Audrey S. Alexander
Barney & Paula Albritton
James Ellis Allen
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Brook
Frankie Aycock
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Beaumont
Sophia Bailey
Richard & Annetta Jones
Myrtis Barlow
Harry Neal & Weezie
Corder

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Deer Creek BC, Rolling
Fork
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Springs, MS
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Connor Family
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Mrs. Annie Marie Beeson
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Mike Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Daniel
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Mr. Bill Blue
Larry Bonds Sr.
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Charles & Lavonne
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Leslie Broome
Stanton Baptist Church,
Natchez

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James & Betty Crosby
Hulon, Irene & Perrian
Brown
Doug & Becky Calcote
Mr. James L. Dunn
Buddy & Tish Russell
Penni & Jim Tilton
Elaine Brown
Peanut & Regina Davis
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Rita & Russell Parker
Ms. Glenice N. Revielle
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Richard & Cathy New
Mr. Cody Buckley Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L.
Manton
Mr. Dudley Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Olen S. Broom
Mrs. Sue Germany
JaHazel Buckley
Mr. Ted Buckley
Mr. Sam Buie
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Joey Burgess
Mrs. Barbara B. Easterling
Mrs. Clydell Burke
Ted W. & Martha B. West
Mr. M. M. Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brents
Mrs. Marie Callahan
Bill & Freddie Greer

Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Needs

The Baptist Children's Village is getting ready for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. As we prepare for these special days we ask that you consider helping us with our holiday grocery list. The following items may be collected and donated to one of The Baptist Children's Village campuses.

Please contact the campus nearest you to schedule delivery. Farrow Manor Campus (Independence) 662-233-2155; Reedy Acres Campus (Water Valley) 662-473-3717; Ramey Cottage (Nanhi Waiya) 662-552-0830; Powell-Walley Campus (Waynesboro) 662-552-0830; Dickerson Place Campus (Brookhaven) 601-833-6104 and Deanash Campus (Wiggins) 601-928-4599. For more information and assistance please contact Celeste Cade at 601-922-2242 or ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

- Canned Vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.)
- Cranberry Sauce
- Chicken broth
- Stuffing
- Cake Mixes
- Brownie and other dessert mixes
- Flour
- Chocolate, Butterscotch & Peanut Butter Chips
- Cornbread & muffin mixes
- Tea bags
- Kool-Aid
- Sugar

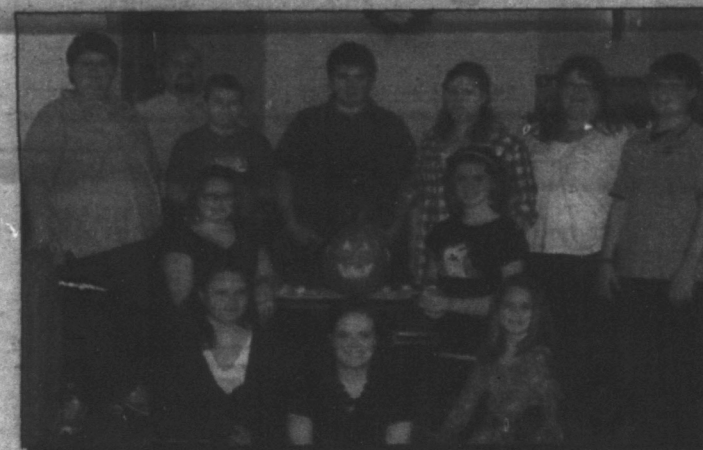
*The Baptist Children's Village
wishes you a Merry Christmas
and Blessed New Year!*



7. Pickens commissioning



8. Big Level Church, Wiggins



9. Fellowship Church, Ellisville



10. Victory Church, Lincoln Association

1. The Celebration Choir and Orchestra of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will present the message, music and pageantry of Christmas Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Dec. 11, 3 p.m., and Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Free tickets are available at www.morrisonheights.org.

2. Clear Branch Church, Florence, will have a live nativity scene at the old Ross Feed Mill Dec. 11, 5:30 - 8 p.m. Refreshments served; Santa will be at the fire station next door.

3. The children's choir of Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, will present Follow the Star Dec. 12, 6 p.m.

4. Harmony Church, Walnut, will present an outside choir Christmas program Dec. 10 - 11, 7 p.m.

5. Bethesda Church, Terry, will present Light of the World Dec. 19, 6 p.m.

6. Sunrise Church, Leake County, will present its children's choir program Dec. 12, with finger foods to follow. 6 p.m.

7. Liberty Church, Union Co., recently commissioned Terry and Dana Pickens as Mission Service Corps missionaries through NAMB. They will begin serving a two year volunteer assignment as church strengtheners to Dinosaur Church in Dinosaur, Colo. Shown are pastor Shawn Davis, AMD Charles Rodgers, and the Pickens.

8. Big Level Church, Wiggins, hosted its 2nd annual fall festival Oct. 30 at Flint Creek Water Park. Activities included pony rides, mule & wagon rides, face painting, other crafts and a space walk. Tory & Sonny Dardar of Broken Vessels led in praise and worship. Shown is the festival.

9. The youth of Fellowship Church, Ellisville, used a pumpkin to show how the love of God can make your "little light" shine. Shown are the participants.

10. Victory Church, Lincoln Association, ordained James Godard and Kyle Williams as deacons. Shown are Emma Godard, Godard, pastor Thomas Wicker, Williams, and Robbie Williams.

11. Antioch Church, Brandon, ordained Dwayne Davis as deacon Oct. 3. Shown are interim pastor Scott Walters, Jenny Davis, and Davis.



11. Davis ordination

COLLEGE NEWS



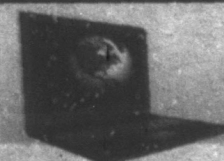
1. Fowler, Jones, and Barefield

1. Blue Mountain College athletics recently formed a partnership with its next-door neighbor, the Dirt Cheap Regional Distribution Center, to establish an indoor practice facility for the Toppers baseball and softball teams. Jessie Jones (center), manager of the Dirt Cheap Regional Distribution Center in Blue Mountain, discusses plans for the indoor practice facility with Toppers coaches Curt Fowler, left, and Kevin Barefield. BMC will use approximately 20,000 square feet of the Dirt Cheap warehouse on Mississippi Highway 15.



2. Mississippi College (MC) faculty, staff and students contributed 5,600 cans of food to help needy families. MC leaders launched the United We Care campaign in October as a way to celebrate the Christian university this fall topping the 5,000 student mark for the first time in school history. Shown are some of the participants.

2. Mississippi College United We Care drive



Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.